SY - Mr. Otepka

October 24, 1960

IRC - R. D. Gatewood

American Defectors to Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries

Your memorandum of October 18 on the above subject raises certain questions which I believe you would wish to consider further:

1.) Are not the FBI and the CIA the primary sources of all data concerning Americans who have been recruited as intelligence agents by Bloc countries? If so, would it be useful or necessary for the Department to have on hand current lists of such agents?

2.) In applying the term "defector" to Americans, would it not be proper to limit this description to those Americans who have either been capable of providing useful intelligence to the Bloc or those whose desire to resettle in Bloc countries has been significantly exploited for communist propaganda purposes? This would mean that no attention need be paid to Americans whose resettlement within the Bloc had no counter-intelligence implications or had attracted no particular attention; for instance, this definition would not cover individual US citizens of East European or Chinese origin who returned to the "home land" because of mere inability to adjust to American conditions.

3.) If the above definition of "defector" is acceptable, would it not be useful for SOA (and particularly SY) to compile a list of such persons covering the last 12 years or more? I am thinking that the defection of two US code clerks in Moscow in 1948 should be included in such a list.

As you requested, IRC has applied to CIA for assistance in verifying and possibly expanding the short list of American "defectors" within the past 18 months. The Agency will also check on the few additional names attached to this memorandum.

Please keep IRC informed of any further developments in this matter.

cc: INR - Mr. Cumming
SCA - Mr. McDonnell

Attachment: IRC memorandum to Mr. Bissell.

CD 294bc